Analysis of Heroin

1. Background

Heroin (diamorphine) is derived from morphine, a naturally occurring alkaloid in the opium poppy plant, *Papaver somniferum*. The physical appearance of heroin can range from pure white powder, brown powder, black, malleable gummy substance or liquid. Heroin is ingested by either insufflation, smoking or intravenous injection. Since heroin can be ingested by several different routes, a variety of paraphernalia can be associated with heroin samples. These items may include plastic bags, metal spoons, syringes, cotton swabs, bottle caps, etc. Samples will be analyzed by physical description, weight (if applicable,) preliminary tests and then followed by a confirmatory test.

2. Objective

The objective of this SOP is to establish guidelines to be used for the analysis of a sample that may contain heroin.

3. Scope

This SOP is to be used by the laboratory staff of the Division of Analytical Chemistry at William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute in Boston, MA.

4. Responsibility

Chemists are responsible for acquiring glassware, preparing chemical reagents and standards, sample analysis, and reporting. Chemists also perform instrument calibrations, maintenance and troubleshooting, ordering of supplies and other necessary tasks related to this analysis.

Technical Reviewers will review each case and complete the comprehensive reviewer checklist. They will ensure that the chemist followed this SOP. The Technical Reviewer may perform the duties and responsibilities of the chemist.

Laboratory Supervisors ensure that chemists are following this SOP. They may perform the duties of the chemists and must review raw data and reports generated by chemists. The Supervisor may advise the chemists of alternative testing methods. They ensure that quality control measures are within acceptable limits and determine when corrective actions are needed. They coordinate proficiency testing (PT), reporting and distribution of PT results. They oversee sample results distribution to outside agencies.

Directors ensure that the SOP is being followed and reviewed on a regular basis. They provide approval of standard operating procedures and review quality control documentations.

5. Related Documents

Cole, Michael, "The Analysis of Controlled Substances," London: John Wiley & Sons Ltd., 2003
Drug Enforcement Administration, "Basic Training Program for Forensic Drug Chemists," Drug Enforcement Administration.
Mills III, Terry et al, "Instrumental Data for Drug Analysis," 3rd ed., 6 vols., New York: CRC Press, 2006.
Moffat, A.C. et al, "Clarke's Isolation and Identification of Drugs," 2nd ed., London: The Pharmaceutical Press, 1986.
Moffat, A.C. et al. "Clarke's Analysis of Drugs and Poisons," 3rd ed., London: The Pharmaceutical Press, 2004.
Saferstein, Richard, "Forensic Science Handbook," New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1988.
Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drug Recommendation, 6th ed., "Part III A & B, Methods of Analysis/Sampling of Seized Drug for Qualitative Analysis," July 2011

6. Definitions

GC w/ FID: Gas Chromatography with Flame Ionization Detector
GC/MS: Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
Gross Weight: The weight of both the substance and its container.
Net Weight: The weight of the substance only.

7. Supplies, Equipment & Reagents

Supplies

GC columns
- HP-1MS (Agilent, Cat # 19091S-933UI or equivalent)
- HP-5MS (Agilent, Cat # 19091S-433UI or equivalent)

GC crimp vials
- Clear (Agilent, 2mL, Cat # 5182-0543 or equivalent)
- Amber (Agilent, 2mL, Cat # 5181-3376 or equivalent)

Clear (Agilent, 0.8mL, Cat# or equivalent)
Kimwipes
Pasteur pipette
Porcelain spot plate
Scissors
Spatula
Stirring rod
Teflon crimp (top) caps
Silver (Agilent, Cat # 5181-1210 or equivalent)
Blue (Agilent, Cat # 5181-1215 or equivalent)
Red (Agilent, Cat # 5181-1217 or equivalent)
Various Class A glassware
Beakers
Graduated cylinders
Volumetric flask (range 10mL to 50mL)
Weighing dish (VWR, Anti-Static, Cat # 89106 or equivalent)
Weighing paper (VWR, Cat # 12578 or equivalent)

Equipment

Analytical Balance (range 0.0001g to 1.0g)
GC with FID (Agilent, Model # 7890 Series or equivalent)
GC/MS (Agilent, Model # 5975 Series or equivalent)

Reagents

Acetone (JT Baker, Ultra Resi-Anhydrous, Cat # 9254 or equivalent)
Chloroform (JT Baker, ACS Grade, Cat # 9180 or equivalent)
Cobalt thiocyanate (Aldrich, Cat # 216135 or equivalent)
Cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate (Fisher Scientific, Certified, Cat # C364 or equivalent)
Deionized water (in-house)
Formaldehyde, 37% wt solution (Acros Organic, ACS Grade, Cat # AC41073 or equivalent)
Glacial acetic acid (JT Baker, ACS Grade, Cat# 9511 or equivalent)
Hydrochloric acid (JT Baker, ACS Grade, Cat # 9535 or equivalent)
Isoproplyamine (Acros Organic, 99%, Cat # AC14892 or equivalent)
Methanol (JT Baker, ACS Grade, Cat # 9070 or equivalent)
Selenous acid (Acros Organic, 99.999%, Cat # 43712 or equivalent)
Sodium molybdate (JT Baker, ACS Grade, Cat # 3764 or equivalent)
Sulfuric acid (JT Baker, ACS Grade, Cat # 9681 or equivalent)

Standards

Cocaine hydrochloride (USP, Cat # 14300 or equivalent)
Codeine phosphate (Grace-Alltech, Cat # 01801 or equivalent)
Cholesterol
Heroin hydrochloride (USP, Cat# 1183002 or equivalent)

8. Safety

Due to the potential hazards, appropriate precautions should be taken as necessary. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of fume hoods, gloves, masks and safety glasses. Lab coats are to be worn at

all times in the unit, unless performing administrative duties.

9. Reagent Preparation

Cobalt Thiocyanate Reagent
Dissolve 2.0g of cobalt thiocyanate in 100mL of deionized water. Mix the solution until completely dissolved.

Marquis Reagent
Dilute 10mL of 37% formaldehyde solution in 90mL of concentrated sulfuric acid. While stirring, slowly add the concentrated sulfuric acid to the formaldehyde solution. Allow the solution to cool completely.

Froedhde's Reagent
Dissolve 0.5g of sodium molybdate in 100mL of concentrated sulfuric acid. Mix the solution until completely dissolved.

Mecke's Reagent
Dissolve 1.0g of selenous acid in 100mL of concentrated sulfuric acid. Mix the solution until completely dissolved.

2.8N Hydrochloric Acid Reagent
Dilute 92.6mL of 12.1N hydrochloric acid in 400mL of deionized water. Mix the solution completely.

Cocaine/Codeine Standard (QC Mix)
Dissolve 10.0 mg of cocaine hydrochloride and 10.0mg of codeine phosphate and bring to volume with 10mL of methanol. Mix the solution until completely dissolved.

Heroin Standard
Dissolve 10mg of heroin hydrochloride in 10mL of methanol. Mix the solution until completely dissolved.

Cholesterol Internal Standard
Dissolve 1.25g of cholesterol and bring to volume with 50mL of chloroform. Mix the solution until completely dissolved.

Heroin Hydrochloride Quantitative Standards and Control
(can not find any record of standard prep)

10. Procedure

A. Evidence Handling

i. Evidence Officer will randomly assign sample to a chemist.
ii. The chemist will perform an evidentiary check on the sample. They will verify that the manila envelop, control card and the evidence correspond. They will observe the integrity evidence bag and its contents.

iii. Once the sample has being verified, the chemist will take custody of the samples by signing out the evidence in the chain of custody logbook.
iv. The sample will be brought to the chemist work area and stored in a secure manner at all times.
v. Upon analysis of each sample, the chemist will document all observations on the Drug Analysis Form.
vi. The information on the Drug Analysis Form will contain but not limited to the sample number, submitting agency, verification of the evidence gross weight, number of samples, container, description of sample, gross, package and net weight, ballistics notation, chemist notations and results, preliminary and confirmatory findings.

B. Sampling Plan (see chart)

i. If there are less than 10 packages, only one package will be samples and analyzed
ii. If there are 11 to N packages, randomly select a number of packages equal to 10% of the total number of packages rounded to the next highest integer.
iii. If the sample is approaching a weight cut off, then the statistical hypergeometric sampling plan will be used for analysis.
iv. See Laboratory Supervisor

C. Residues

i. Attempt to scrape or remove sample from the device and place onto weighing paper or boat. Or rinse the device containing the sample with 1-2ml of the chloroform and place the extract into a beaker.
ii. Transfer some of the sample or extract into a labeled residue vial for GC and GC/MS analysis. Residue samples should be dissolved or diluted in chloroform. Cap and seal the vial tightly.
iii. Use the remaining sample or extract to perform the color test.

D. Color Test

i. The color test consists of four reagents, which are cobalt thiocyanate, marquis, froehde's, and mecke's.
ii. For powdered substances, place a couple of drops of cobalt thiocyanate, marquis, froehde's, mecke's reagents into four individual wells on a porcelain spot plate. Then add a small amount of sample (1-2mg of powder) to each well. Note any color change or reaction.
iii. For liquid substances, add a small amount of sample (1-2 drops) into four individual wells on a porcelain spot plate and allow the sample to dry completely. Then place a couple of drops of cobalt thiocyanate, marquis, froehde's, mecke's reagents into each wells. Note any color change or reaction.
iv. If there is no reaction or no color change with the cobalt thiocyanate, then add 1-2 drops of 2.8N hydrochloric acid to the sample. Note any color change or reaction.
v. The results will be recorded on the Drug Analysis Form by documenting the actual color/s observed. Negative observations will be recorded by stating no reaction or no color change

E. Interpretation

i. Marquis reagent: Formation of a purple color indicates the possible presence of heroin, other opiates, methocarbamol or guaifenesin.
ii. Froehde's reagent: Formation of a purple color indicates the possible presence of heroin and other opiates.

iii. Mecke's reagent: Formation of a green color indicates the possible presence of heroin and other opiates.

F. Gas Chromatography Screen (as necessary)

i. Place 1-2mg of powder into a labeled GC vial and then add 1.8mL of methanol. Or use the prepared GC vial from section (C).
ii. Initiate auto sampler sequence using the ROUTINE method running a blank solvent between each unknown sample and reference standard/s.
iii. Compare retention time of the each sample with the reference standard/s. Also check the chromatograph to determine if the sample needs to be diluted or concentrated.
iv. Positive GC analysis will be recorded on the Drug Analysis Form by the use of a plus (+). The result is considered positive when the retention time of the sample and the reference standard meet the laboratory criteria and are specified in the notes. Negative observations will be recorded by the use of a negative (-).

G. Criteria for Gas Chromatography Screen

i. Retention time of the sample must be within +/- 1.5% of the reference standard.
ii. The concentration of the sample should be equivalent to the standard.

H. Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry

i. Confirmatory analysis can be performed using the GC vial from the previous section (H). Or place 1-2mg of powder into a labeled GC vial and then add 1.8mL of methanol.
ii. Initiate auto sampler sequence using the DRUGS method running a blank solvent between each unknown sample and reference standard/s.
iii. Compare retention time and ion spectra of the each sample with the reference standard/s (Heroin).
iv. Document the date analyzed and results of the GC/MS onto the MS Tracking Sheet, Drug Analysis Form and Control Card.

I. Criteria for Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry

i. Retention time of the sample must be within +/- 1.5% of the reference standard.
ii. Library spectra match must be > 90%.
iii. There must be a visual spectral match between the reference standard and the sample.
iv. At least 5 of the major ions must be present for the sample.

J. Quantitation

i. All quantatitive analyses must be specifically requested and approved by the Laboratory Supervisor.
ii. Prepare the standards as indicated in the reagent/standard preparation section. If the standards are already prepared, they must be at room temperature prior to use.
iii. Pipette out 0.8mL of each standard and place into individually labeled residue vial.
iv. Initiate auto sampler sequence using the HEROINQUANT method running chloroform blank solvent between each reference standard/s.
v. Check the concentration of each standard to determine if it meets the criteria of the laboratory.
vi. Criteria: determine criteria
vii. If standards are acceptable, continue with the analysis. If any of the standards are out of range (spec), notify the lab supervisor (make up new standards).
viii. For the sample: Dissolve 10mg of sample in 1mL of cholesterol standard and then bring to volume with chloroform using a 10mL volumetric flask. Mix the solution until dissolved.

ix. Pipette 2mL of the sample into a labeled GC vial and cap tightly. Prepare 2 separate GC vials for analysis.
x. Initiate auto sampler sequence using the HEROINQUANT method running chloroform blank solvent between each reference standard/s.
xi. Sequence order should be similar: Blank, 1.0 standard, blank, 0.8 standard, blank, sample-1, blank, sample-2, blank, 0.4 standard, blank, 0.24 standard, blank, control, and blank.
xii. For sample: take the average of both results.
xiii. Document the results on the Quantitation Analysis Form, Drug Analysis Form and Control Card.

11. Documentation

A. All results will be documented on the Drug Analysis Form.
B. All raw data will be generated and filed according to the laboratory policy.
C. A certificate of analysis will be generated for each lab number which will document the results.

12. Attachments

GC Method

GC/MS Method